

## Message Text

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42

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEAE-00 EB-07 ERDE-00 ERDA-07

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 NSF-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 /109 W

----- 043710

P 211516Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8432

UNCLAS MOSCOW 3880

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, UR

SUBJ: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: VISIT OF US TEMPORARY GROUP OF COAL EXPERTS

REF: A. STATE 56486; B. MOSCOW 3782

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH DR. I.S. BLAGOV, CHIEF OF THE COLA PREPARATION DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE COAL INDUSTRY AND TROSHIN OF MINERGO MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS INCLUSION OF VISITS TO UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION SITES FOR U.S. COAL DELEGATION.

2. BLAGOV SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE COAL INDUSTRY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION. THIS IS HANDLED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE GAS INDUSTRY, ACCORDING TO BLAGOV.

3. SCICOUNS STRESSED THAT REGARDLESS OF WHICH MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION, THE US DELEGATION IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC AND WANTS THE REQUESTED VISITS INCLUDED IN THEIR PROGRAM.

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4. AFTER SPIRITED DISCUSSION BETWEEN MINISTRY OF COAL REPRESENTATIVES AND TROSHIN OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER ON HOW TO COORDINATE WITH THE GAS MINISTRY ON THIS QUESTION, SCICOUNS WAS PROMISED AN ANSWER BY MARCH 26 AS TO WHETHER THE COAL GASIFICATION SITES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM OR NOT.

5. BLAGOV SAID HIS MINISTRY HAD ARRANGED THE PROGRAM TO RESPOND TO THE US DELEGATION'S DESIRES TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE AND THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS ALSO RESPONSIVE TO THE WISHES OF MR. WILLIAM CRENTZ OF THE BUREAU OF MINES WHICH WERE EXPRESSED IN A RECENT LETTER TO HIM. EMBASSY WAS UNAWARE OF THE CRENTZ LETTER AND WHETHER SUBJECT OF COAL GASIFICATION WAS RAISED IN IT. PLEASE ADVISE. SCICOUNS RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT BLAGOV WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH US COLLEAGUES WHOM HE HAD ALREADY DEALT WITH BOTH EMBASSY AND USSR MINISTRY OF POWER IN ARRANGING VISITS. HOWEVER, NOW THAT EMBASSY HAS ESTABLISHED DIRECT CONTACT WITH BLAGOV, WE SHALL KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN AND DIRECT.

6. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IF COAL GASIFICATION SITE VISITS CANNOT BE COORDINATED WITH MINISTRY OF GAS INDUSTRY ON SHORT NOTICE, FOR US COAL DELEGATION, US GAS DELEGATION COULD INCLUDE IT IN ITS PROGRAM IN THE USSR. NEVERTHELESS, WE EXPECT, THAT AS A RESULT OF EMBASSY'S PRESSURE, MINISTRY OF POWER WILL STEP IN AND SEE TO IT THAT COAL DELEGATION GETS DESIRED PROGRAM.

7. PROVIDED SATISFACTORY PROGRAM CAN BE DEVELOPED, US DELEGATION COULD BE RECEIVED APRIL 3 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER, DELEGATION WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE VISIT NO LATER THAN APRIL 25 DUE TO SOVIET HOLIDAYS IN EARLY MAY.  
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## Message Attributes

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